

Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra have signed MOUs with the Government of India. In July, 2000, the Government of India approved a scheme for securitisation of dues of the State Electricity Boards (SEBs).

(d) Yes, Sir.

Generating Fund for the Additional 20,000 MW Power Production

2818. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that new tariff norms noticed by the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission are hampering the addition of 20,000 M.W. Plan of the NTPC; and

(b) if so, how the Ministry is going to compensate the corporation to generate funds for the additional 20,000 M.W. power production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission has issued orders on Availability Based Tariff (ABT), and Tariff Principles and Norms for Central generating stations including the National Thermal Power Corporation Limited (NTPC) on 15th December, 2000 and 21st December, 2000 respectively. The impact of the above orders as indicated by the NTPC will result in substantial reduction in NTPC's internal resources generation and consequently in its capacity addition programme of 20,000 MW by 2012. The total impact as pointed out by NTPC over the next 11 years, i.e. upto 2011-12 will be to the tune of Rs. 18,000 crores.

Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) is an independent statutory body created under the Electricity Regulatory Commissions (ERC) Act, 1998 with powers *inter alia* to regulate tariff of generating companies owned or controlled by the Central Government and to determine by regulation the terms & conditions for fixation of tariff for such generating companies. In exercise of the powers conferred under the ERC Act, 1998, the CERC has issued the aforesaid orders. However, NTPC has filed a review petition with

CERC and has also filed an appeal in Delhi High Court against the CERC order on Availability Based Tariff.

(b) In view of the above, does not arise at this stage.

Conference of State Chief Ministers on Power Reform

2819. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government convened a Conference of State Chief Ministers in the first week of March, 2001 to discuss power sector reforms;

(b) the consensus arising out of this Conference in regard to phasing out subsidies on power supplied to agriculture and minimizing power thefts and transmission losses;

(c) whether the Central Government have issued directives to State Electricity Boards to clean up their fiscals and wipe of accumulated losses within two years; and

(d) whether the Central Government have also envisaged complete electrification of rural areas within a span of five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It was resolved that the past decision of the Chief Ministers of a minimum agricultural tariff of 50 paise per unit may be implemented immediately and it is necessary to move away from the regime of providing free power. The States of Punjab and Tamil Nadu did not agree to immediate raising of agricultural tariff and stopping of free supply to farmers.

The following resolutions were adopted to minimize power thefts and transmission losses:

- (i) Energy audit at all 11 KV feeders within next 6 months and accountability to be fixed at the local level.
- (ii) Full metering of all consumers by December, 2001.
- (iii) Launch of effective programmes for identifying and elimination of power thefts in next two years.